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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**19 DECEMBER 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) San Ramon – Northern California Student Arrested With Knife, Acid**

(U) Police say a 14-year-old student was arrested for allegedly bringing a knife and acid that can be used to make an explosive device to a Northern California high school. Students at Dougherty Valley High School told administrators that another student allegedly had a knife on campus and authorities were called to the San Francisco Bay Area school. Officers discovered that the student also had muriatic acid. When combined with other materials, can create an explosive reaction.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [AP](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Arizona – Three People Arrested at Border for Attempted Drug Smuggling**

(U) Nogales – US Customs and Border Protection officers at Arizona's Port of Nogales arrested three people in separate failed attempts to smuggle cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine into the United States. CBP officers at the Mariposa Crossing referred a 28-year-old legal, permanent US resident from Mexico for further inspection of his Chrysler sedan last Friday afternoon. A CBP narcotics detection canine detected two packages of drugs, identified as nearly five pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$119,000.

SOURCE: 18 December 2018, [KVOA](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Indiana – Woman Accused of Supporting ISIS Seeks Release for Mental Health Treatment**

(U) Elkhart – A woman accused of supporting ISIS fighters wants to be released before trial to receive treatment for trauma that "continues to torment her," according to court records. Samantha Elhasanni "is desperately in need of mental health treatment" that she's been unable to receive while in the US Marshal's custody, according to her attorneys. Elhassani's "condition has continued to deteriorate" while in custody, causing "great concern," according to the motion.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Chicago Tribune](#)

(U) Vermont – Student Helps Police Foil Alleged School Shooting Plot

(U) Middlebury – Police say they foiled a school shooting plot in Middlebury thanks to a student who came forward. Investigators say two students at Middlebury Union Middle School plotted together to shoot another student on campus and "anyone else." The school principal called police Saturday after a third student overheard the plan and an investigation was immediately launched. They say through interviews, investigators learned the suspects planned to get guns and bring them to school at noon on 18 December to shoot a student. They learned a second student volunteered to get guns from a relative.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [WCAX](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Afghanistan – Taliban Commander Admits Foreign Fighters are Embedded within Group**

(U) Kabul – In a startling admission, a senior leader in the Afghan Taliban stated “thousands” of foreign fighters are currently embedded in the group in Afghanistan. The admission is astonishing as the Taliban has attempted to obscure its relationship with al Qaeda. US military and intelligence estimates of between 50 to 100 al-Qa’ida in Afghanistan (later modified to 200) have been low, according to open source reporting.

SOURCE: 18 December 2018, [Long War Journal](#)

(U) Belgium – EU Communications Hack Compromise Diplomatic Documents

(U) Brussels – A European Union communication system was illegally accessed for years, allowing the hackers to copy thousands of diplomatic documents, according to open-source reporting. Area 1, the US cybersecurity firm discovered the hack, saying the techniques used were similar to those used by China’s People’s Liberation Army. Blake Darche, an Area 1 expert, stated “there is no doubt” the hack is tied to the Chinese government. The hackers gained access with a phishing campaign targeting diplomats in Cyprus, which gave them access to the entire EU system.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Washington Times](#)

(U) Canada – Third Canadian Citizen Detained in China

(U) Ottawa – A third Canadian citizen has been detained by Chinese authorities, but did not connect the incident to Canada’s high-profile arrest last month of a Chinese tech executive, according to open source reporting. Officials are “aware of a Canadian citizen” who has been detained, but did not provide further details, citing the Privacy Act. The office did not suggest the arrest was linked to the arrest of Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou on 1 December, who was held by Canadian authorities at the request of US officials.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [National Post](#)

(U) Syria – ISIS Kills 700 Prisoners in East Syria

(U) Hajin – ISIS militants has executed nearly 700 prisoners in nearly two months in eastern Syria, according to a human rights group. The UK-based war monitoring group said the prisoners were among 1,350 civilians and fighters that ISIS had been holding in territory near the Iraqi border. The jihadists control a shrinking strip of land east of the Syria’s Euphrates River around the town of Hajin, which US backed forces entered this month.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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